

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed on May 19, 2006, has been reviewed and the comments of the Patent and Trademark Office have been considered. Prior to this paper, claims 17, 27-47, 49-51, 76-84, 86-89, 91-93 and 96-97 were pending. By this paper, without prejudice or disclaimer, Applicant cancels claims 32-35 and 79-81 and 97, in order to advance prosecution. Therefore claims 17, 27-31, 36-47, 49-51, 76-78, 82-84, 86-89, 91-93 and 96 are now pending.

Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance for at least the reasons that follow.

Interview of August 15, 2006

Examiner Phan is thanked for extending the courtesy of a telephone interview to Applicant's representatives on August 15, 2006, where it was agreed that if the rejected claims were cancelled from the application, a Notice of Allowance would be forthcoming.

In view of the Telephone Interview held on August 15, 2006, Applicant submits that the above provides a complete and proper recordation of the substance of the interview, per MPEP §713.04.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 32-35, 79-81 and 97 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102. In response, in order to advance prosecution, and without prejudice or disclaimer, Applicant cancels these claims. Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections are now moot in view of the above amendments to the claims.

Conclusion

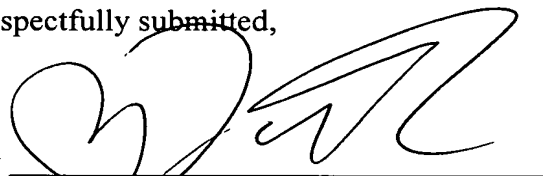
Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.


Examiner Phan is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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